

They have succeeded in finding work for nearly fifty of the convicts, at spike-making, by which they earn the entire cost of their maintenance and supervision : but, for two months past, owing to the severe winter, and the consequent inability of the business firm of Baltimore City, who afford employment to these convicts, to obtain a supply of iron, those hands have been unemployed, and the institution thus unexpectedly involved in a loss, which it seriously feels at this time. Another portion of the convicts, twenty in number, are farmed out at broom-making, (as stated by the Directors in their annual report,) at prices far more profitable to the institution than the production of cotton plaids. The Directors, being satisfied that the employment of an additional number of hands in their dying department, will add greatly to the revenue of the establishment, have just made their arrangements for enlarging this branch of their business, by providing new dye tubs and copper kettles, and re-fitting and re-setting the steam-boilers which drive the machinery of the carding, and spinning and iron cutting department. From all the information we could collect, we are convinced that the interests of the institution will be greatly promoted by these changes, and that the money used for the purpose has been well expended. The cost of these improvements will amount to fifteen hundred dollars, besides an expenditure of about one thousand dollars which has been made within the last two years, in erecting new forges in their smith-shops, and erecting an addition to that building. This makes, what we may term the extraordinary expenditures of the institution, within that period, amount to twenty-five hundred dollars.

Our examination of the books of the concern, shows that the deficiency in their last year's operations, was nine thousand three hundred and two dollars and seventy-eight cents, (\$9,302 78,) of which they now stand in pressing need to make their heavy purchases for their business of the season. We are satisfied, from the limited yield of the hands that are engaged in making cotton and woolen fabrics, the loss they have sustained from the temporary want of employment for the prisoners engaged at spike-making, and the expenditure which they very properly made to increase the receipts from their dying establishment, that the receipts of the present year, under the most careful management, will fall short of the expenses to the amount of some seven or eight thousand dollars. With this sum, it is our opinion, that the institution ought to be provided, during the year, to enable it to prosecute its business to advantage, and always to have the funds at command with which to make their necessary purchases at the lowest market rates. We have come to this conclusion because of our conviction that the Penitentiary has, from time to time, labored under very serious disadvantages for the want of funds to enable it to take advantage of the market in the purchase of the raw materials from which are manufactured their fabrics, and that, in